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AN EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT OF FURNITURE

In last year's report attention was called to the pressing need of new cases in the East Gallery, to permit the carrying out of long-cherished plans for the more effective arrangement of the collections of ceramics, carvings, metal-work, enamels, glass and furniture. The last is one of the best public collections of the kind in this country, but the inadequate space which, under existing conditions, is available for it, has prevented its proper installation. The furniture of all countries and periods is now crowded together on narrow platforms at each side of the Gallery, while the central space is entirely occupied by antiquated floor cases which are unsuitable for the effective display of the other collections. By erecting new cases for the better accommodation of the collections mentioned, much of the floor space of the apartment could be fitted up with appropriate booths for the geographical and chronological arrangement of furniture. By making these changes the installation of the Japanese house, which since 1893 has been stored in the basement, would be made possible.

With a view to effecting these much desired changes, which it was believed would cost about \$5000, careful estimates have been obtained and it has been found that the expense of procuring the desired cases will be considerably less than was at first supposed. New cases of the most approved pattern in hard wood, with plate glass fronts and the best quality of hardware, can be built for \$3000.

The purchase of these new cases will, therefore, not only permit the more effective arrangement of the valuable collection of furniture, and thus greatly enhance the educational value of the exhibit, but will enable the Curator to systematically rearrange the other collections mentioned and to so display them that they will show to much better advantage and be of the greatest practical assistance to art students, historians and artisans, and surpass in value and interest similar collections in any of the other American museums.

The sum needed to effect these improvements it not large, but there is at present no available fund that can be appropriated for the purpose. The Museum is dependent on its friends for the carrying out of these plans. Contributions toward such a fund will be thankfully received.



THE JOSEPH E. TEMPLE TRUST

In the year 1884, the late Joseph E. Temple, of Philadelphia, executed a deed of trust, in which the sum of \$50,000 was set aside as a permanent fund, the income of which, after his death, should form a perpetual fund, three-fifths of which were to be used for the benefit of the Museum in the purchase of works of art executed by artisans or workmen, preferring and favoring Americans, when possible, and two-fifths to be used in the establishment of scholarships in the schools connected with the Museum and in prizes for competi-

tion by the students of these schools. This perennial benefaction has resulted in the purchase for the Museum of many of the most valuable objects on exhibition.

It was expressly provided in the deed of trust that the income from this fund should be used from time to time without requiring the income of each year to be expended in the same year. By this provision it is made possible to accumulate the income from year to year when not needed for immediate



COPY OF PULPIT Executed by Niccola Pisano, in 1268, in Cathedral at Siena, Italy

use, so that there may be available at any time a fund sufficiently large to secure any particularly desirable objects or collections which may be offered.

Among the numerous objects exhibited in the Museum, which have been purchased with the income from the Temple fund, the following may be mentioned:

Plaster cast of the celebrated pulpit in the Cathedral at Siena, Italy, erected in 1268, executed by Niccola Pisano. This reproduction is of the exact size of the original, sixteen feet in height.

Full size cast of the celebrated Columbus doors in the west front of the Capitol Building at Wash-

ington, designed by Randolph Rogers and executed in bronze by F. von Miller, at Munich.

A large wrought iron grille of delicate and elaborate workmanship with details of a bouquet of roses, twining morning glories, "cat tails," butterflies and scroll work, executed by L. Bergeotte, of Paris, France, and exhibited at the International Exposition of 1900.

A collection of Tiffany Favrile glass, occupying an entire case and consisting of carefully selected examples of the best work of Mr. Louis C. Tiffany in glass modeling and coloring, in imitation of precious stones, and illustrating his work from the commencement of the manufacture to the present time, which received high awards at the recent International Expositions.

A large collection of German wrought iron work of the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, consisting of door hardware, locks, hinges, escutcheons and ornaments of various kinds. This collection of original examples is perhaps the best of its kind ever brought to this country.

A large vase of Minton porcelain, exquisitely decorated in the pate-surpate style by Mr. M. L. Solon, the greatest artist in the world in this branch of decorative art. The vase stands twenty-fours inches in height. The ground



COPY OF BRONZE DOORS IN THE CAPITOL WASHINGTON

color is a dull dark olive green on which the white reliefs stand out in effective contrast. The subjects are, on one side "The Merry Jester" and on the reverse a puppet show in which the little wooden actors are represented in the play of "Minerva, Goddess of Wisdom, Vanquished by Love." This superb piece is in Mr. Solon's best style and is one of the *Chefs d'oeuvre* of the Museum.

The result of this liberal benefaction is that Mr. Temple's name is perpetuated for all time by the beautiful works of art which are purchased and labeled with his name. Each year new objects are added to the Museum from this fund, so that the memory of the donor is constantly being revived. It is to be hoped that other publicspirited citizens will emulate Mr. Temple's example in thus providing constantly renewed instruction and enjoyment for the people, by furnishing the means to gather together in the Museum, from all quarters of the globe, the best work in all branches ofdecorative and industrial arts.



SHRINE FROM TEMPLE GATE

As stated in the previous number of the Bulletin, the ancient shrine, carvings and bronzes, from the Temple Gate, recently erected in Fairmount Park, have been placed on exhibition in Memorial Hall. It will be remembered that this old Temple Gate, or Nio-mon, was exhibited at the St. Louis Exposition and was purchased by Mr. John H. Converse and Mr. Samuel M. Vauclain and presented to the City of Philadelphia, through the Fairmount Park Art Association.